

Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, February 4, 2014

A meeting of the Rockport Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 6:45pm in Conference Room A of Town Hall. Present were five selectpersons, the Town Administrator and the Asst. to the Town Administrator.

6:45 Town Report Cover Photo Selection & Board of Selectmen Photo for Town Report

7:00 Meeting Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2014: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of January 9, 2014, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 4-0; Selectperson Wilkinson abstained as she was not present at 1/9/14.

Minutes of 1/9/14
Board of
Selectmen
Meeting
Motion Approved

Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2014 workshop: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of January 14, 2014, seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Minutes of
1/14/14 Board of
Selectmen
Workshop
Motion Approved

Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2014; Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of January 21, 2014, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 3-0. Selectpersons Wilkinson and Sheedy abstained as they were not in attendance on 1/21/14.

Minutes of
1/21/14 Board of
Selectmen
Meeting
Motion Approved

7:15 National Grid Utilities Hearing for Breakwater Avenue – Continuation from January 21, 2014: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board open the continuation of the January 21, 2014 Public Hearing on the joint petition of National Grid and Verizon requesting permission to erect and maintain utility poles, wires, and fixtures in a public way as well as to install underground facilities on Breakwater Avenue, Selectperson Lucas seconded, Vote: .

Open National
Grid Utilities
Hearing for
Breakwater Ave.,
Motion Approved

Peter Glenn, National Grid, 44 River Street, Beverly, said the request is to relocate a pole on Breakwater Avenue, moving back towards the main street. Chairperson Battistelli said the abutters had concerns about the moving of a pole in front of their house. She said at the prior meeting the board members didn't feel comfortable moving to a vote. Selectperson Lucas questioned the photo brought by the applicant, and inquired if the proposal is that the pole be really close to the street. P. Glenn said it is very close to the property line. Chairperson Battistelli mentioned the importance of having the street light there; she said it would be very dark there without a light. P. Glenn/National Grid said the placement of lights in town is up to the DPW and the Police. F. Simmons questioned what properties would be impacted by moving that pole to the proposed location. T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said there is a list of public and private ways. F. Simmons said it is a private way. Selectperson Lucas said she asked at the last hearing about going underground the whole distance. This has not been answered. Steve Schaefer, 12 Breakwater Avenue, said nothing was discussed since the last meeting. He said he would want to speak to an attorney about that. F. Simmons spoke about the safety issues and the corrosion to the current power panel due to the weather conditions. S. Schaefer said this is our primary residence; they're talking about a rental unit. T. Arsenian said no costs should be passed on to the town on this request. P. Glenn/National Grid suggested

Close Public
Hearing on
Breakwater Ave
Motion Approved

a potential new plan to move these wires underground through a public way; he offered to work up the cost for this. Another proposed plan would require another public hearing at a future meeting.

Selectperson Murphy moved to close the hearing; Selectperson Lucas seconded. No action will be taken on this at this meeting.

Nomination of
S. Fritch for
Harbor Advisory
Committee
Motion Approved

Interview of Stephen Fritch for the Harbor Advisory Committee: Selectperson Wilkinson nominated Stephen Fritch as a member of the Harbor Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2016, Selectperson Murphy seconded, no vote taken; vote will be taken at the next meeting. S. Fritch said he resides at 21 Eden Road; his family has been in Rockport for 60 years. He said he has been very involved with boating all his life; he is interested in the waterfront. The committee can have up to nine members; they currently have six.

Nomination of
Dana Jorgensson
for Harbor
Advisory
Committee
Motion Approved

Interview of Dana Jorgensson for the Harbor Advisory Committee: Selectperson Murphy nominated Dana Jorgensson as a member of the Harbor Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2016, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, no vote taken; vote will be taken at the next meeting. D. Jorgensson said she resides at 12D High Street; she said she moved here in the late 70's. She said she returned to Rockport eleven years ago and is a boat owner. She said she is familiar with Chapter 91 issues as well as state and federal issues with the waterfront and understands the processes with grants, open meetings, etc.

Selectmen
Updates and
Liaison Reports

Selectmen Updates and Liaison Reports: Selectperson Murphy said he heard from members of the School Committee, when they presented to a Board of Selectmen meeting, that some members of the Finance Committee were snickering when the School Committee was presenting their budget. He is requesting that a letter be sent from the Board of Selectmen to the Finance Committee indicating that no one should be made fun of while presenting and the town's business should be handled in a professional manner. He said it is not the Finance Committee's money; it is the town's money that is being discussed. Selectperson Wilkinson said participation is really encouraged so ridiculing anyone is unacceptable. Selectperson Murphy will draft a letter and get it to the members of the Board. Selectperson Sheedy said perhaps they should be reminded that they are an advisory board.

Selectperson Murphy spoke about the snowstorm predicted for tomorrow and questioned if town hall would be closed. The Town Administrator said there are no plans yet to close town hall.

Public Comment
Period

Public Comment Period: T. Arsenian, 95 Granite Street, said he would like speak on parking on T-wharf, as well as snow and closings. He said the Conservation Commission was supposed to meet two weeks ago in Conference Room A. They were not in Conference Room A and there was no note on the door. He said there should be some protocol about cancelling a meeting. He stated when the Rockport Housing Partnership presented at a previous Board of Selectmen meeting the board voted to approve the proposal. He said there was no proposal and no sum of money mentioned. He stated that requests for affordable housing funds should have a plan. He is requesting a workshop be scheduled for planning and/or a policy on affordable housing.

Town Administrator's Report: The Town Administrator spoke about the pilot program on extending CATA hours. The activities were very low during evening hours,

Selectperson Wilkinson said she is willing to look at the pilot schedule and recommend changes. Chairperson Battistelli recommended more promotion of the changed schedule as well. This should be put on upcoming agenda soon. A new home for the recreation department is across from the parking clerk. The new IS&T office in the Annex (2nd floor data center) is coming along nicely. The Town Administrator said the board needs to meet again with the Finance Committee to deliberate on the budget; she recommends considering having an extra Board of Selectmen meeting. A potential time recommended is 4pm on Thursday, the 27th. Selectperson Murphy moved to add a workshop meeting on Thurs., 2/27/14, tentatively at 4pm, seconded by Selectperson Wilkinson, Vote: 5-0.

Town
Administrator's
Report

7:40 Action List

Action List:

Close Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen close the Warrants for the April 5, 2014 Special and Annual Town Meetings, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Close STM and
ATM Warrants
Motion
Approved

Request for Hiring Approval for IS&T: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the hiring of an Information Services & Networks Manager to fill a vacancy, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Request to hire
IS&T Mgr.,
Motion
Approved

Request for Hiring Approval for a Town Accountant: Selectperson Wilkinson moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the hiring of the Town Accountant to fill a vacancy, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Request to hire
Town
Accountant
Motion
Approved

Temporary Art Project at White Wharf: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen grant permission to Rob Trumbour, 6 Jerden's Lane, to install a temporary art piece at White Wharf and Lumber Wharf that would be lighted and would include two wood-burning metal barrels, stacked lobster pots, wrapped with translucent fire retardant fabric as the windbreaks and five speakers placed in different locations to be displayed from February 13th to February 23, 2014 as well as allowing the performance of a violin player, Selectperson Wilkinson seconded, Vote: . No vote taken.

Temporary Art
Project at White
Wharf

Re-stated Motion: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen grant permission to Rob Trumbour, 6 Jerden's Lane, to install a temporary art piece at Bradley Wharf that would be lighted and would include three wood burning metal barrels, stacked lobster pots, wrapped with translucent fire retardant fabric as the windbreaks and three speakers placed in different locations to be displayed from February 13 to February 23, 2014 as well as allowing violin music from 6:30 to 8pm, subject to approval by the Fire Chief and Police Chief, with notification to the abutters of the harbor, seconded by Selectperson Lucas, Vote: 4-0, Selectperson Murphy abstained.

Motion
Approved

Seal Watching Business: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen grant permission to Captain Steve Fritch to operate his seal watching business out of Rockport Harbor from May through Mid-October, 2014, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0. He said he has taken folks out to see the seals and would like to do more formally. Not a scheduled trip but to take a family or a couple out. He said he is a member of the Chamber and has a web-site. He operates out of T-wharf and can take up to six people out at a time.

Seal Watching
Business
Motion
Approved

Use of 20 Parking Spots on T-Wharf: Selectperson Lucas moved that the Board of Selectmen approve of the closure of 20 parking spots near the bathrooms on T-Wharf

Use of 20
Parking Spots
On t-wharf
Motion
Approved

from 7:00am to 10:00am to allow for the set-up of the start and finish line for the Motif #1 Day 5K Road Race on May 17, 2014, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Long Beach Rules
and Regulations
Motion Approved

Long Beach Rules & Regulations: Selectperson Wilkinson moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the amended Long Beach Rules and Regulations, Selectperson Murphy seconded, Vote: 5-0. Ward Talbot, Old County Road, said he is concerned that the tenants won't see the released rules before they are required to sign the lease. It was recommended that the rules and regulations be available and released soon, that they be put on the town website and that they be e-mailed to the cottage owners as soon as possible.

Revised Anti-
Harassment
Policy
Motion Approved

Revised Anti-Harassment Policy: Selectperson Murphy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the amended Anti-Harassment policy, Selectperson Sheedy seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Cessation of
Statutory
Exemptions for
Firefighters &
Forest Firefighters
Motion Approved

Cessation of Statutory Exemptions for Firefighters and Forest Firefighters 65 and Older: Selectperson Sheedy moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the recommendation of the Board of Fire Engineers that when a member reaches the age of 65 they retire from the Rockport Fire and Forest Fire Departments in accordance with MA General Law, Selectperson Wilkinson seconded, Vote: 5-0.

8:45 Discussion Items

33 Atlantic Avenue & 59 High Street Properties. The Town Administrator said the Town of Rockport owns 33 Atlantic Avenue; it's been through land court and is boarded up. The Town Administrator said depending on a vote tonight, this could be on the list of warrant articles. It could go to auction or it could be repurposed. Chairperson Battistelli asked if the board members could get an overview of the details of the property from the Assessor's office for the next meeting. The Town Administrator said she could write some articles allowing the Board to take several actions so if they decide to, the articles would be ready. Chairperson Battistelli and Selectperson Wilkinson recommended postponing this to the FTM. Chairperson Battistelli said we could move faster on 59 High Street, it's in a residential neighborhood and the neighbors would probably be in favor of something happening to the property sooner rather than later.

9:15 Selectperson Murphy moved to adjourn, Selectperson Wilkinson seconded, Vote: 5-0.

Warrant signed:

Warrant signed for the Fiscal Year 2014 Payroll and Expenses for the week of / /14 in the amounts of \$ and \$ respectively.

Items signed:

Eagle Scout award

Long Beach Rules and Regulations, revised 10/29/13

Common Victualler's License, Molly's Sweet Tooth

Common Victualler's License, American Legion